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SHARON,

MASSACHUSETTS,

—THE—

HEALTHIEST TOWN

—IN—

NEW ENGLAND.

—

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BY

W. B. WICKES.

—

SHARON:

PRINTED AT THE OFFICE OF THE ADVOCATE.

1892



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## HOW TO REACH SHARON. ] —

Sharon is seventeen miles from Boston and twenty-five from Providence, on the main line of the Providence Division of the Old Colony Railroad. There are thirteen trains from Boston each week-day, including a theatre train and four trains from Boston on Sunday. Time of trains from Boston, twenty-nine to forty minutes. This road is one of the oldest, best-equipped and most carefully managed roads in the country. It crosses no drawbridges, is double-tracked with heavy steel rails its entire length, and the trains are supplied with plenty of cars, so each passenger can have a seat.

As most of the trains are express between Boston and Sharon, and consume but thirty minutes between the two places, it will be seen that we are practically as near Boston as many places that join that city.

The Boston station on Columbus Avenue and Park Square, at the foot of Boston Common, is convenient and comfortable, and architecturally is the most beautiful in the United States. It is said by those who have travelled extensively to be unequalled in the world, when convenience, looks and surroundings are taken into account. The station in Sharon is also well adapted to the wants of the travelling public and is supplied with the famous Sharon Spring water, and the yard and grounds are finely graded and embellished with shrubs and flowers.



Single fares from Sharon to Boston, forty cents; five tickets, one dollar and seventy-five cents, or thirty-five cents each; a three months' ticket, twenty dollars; a two months' ticket, fifteen dollars; one month, eight dollars. The net cost on a three months' ticket is only twelve cents a trip; on a two months' fourteen cents; and on a one month ticket, fifteen cents. Single fares from Sharon to Providence, sixty cents. One thousand-mile tickets, good on any portion of the Old Colony system, twenty dollars. Passengers from New York can reach Sharon by the all-rail Shore Line or by the Providence steamboat line. To drive from Boston to Sharon, take Brush Hill turnpike and come via Canton. From Jamaica Plain come via Dedham and Norwood. From New Bedford, Taunton and Fall River, come via Easton Furnace, or come by rail via Mansfield.

Sharon has fine mail facilities, there being thirteen mails to and from the post-office each week day. The Western Union Telegraph Company has an office in the railroad station, and the wires of the New England Telephone Company enable us to talk with all the country. Communication can be had, at all hours of the day or night, direct with my residence in Sharon from any telephone in Boston, or any of the surrounding towns, and, in fact, by means of the long distance telephone, with almost any large city in the land. As the railroad time-table is liable to slight changes, it is omitted from this book, but a correct one will be furnished on application to me.

## DESCRIPTION.

SHARON. Norfolk County. Massachusetts, offers great inducements to the farmer, the poultry keeper, the gardener, the manufacturer and the invalid, as also to those seeking a quiet, pleasant home. Its attractions as a suburban residence, especially to those doing business in Boston, Providence and neighboring towns and cities, are unequalled by any other place within fifty miles of Boston.

Sharon is the most elevated town in eastern Massachusetts, and from its situation and the nature of the soil, the natural drainage is almost perfect. It is at the summit of the watershed of three rivers, and is a singular fact that though a very large town in extent, yet not one drop of water runs into it from any other town, but water runs out of Sharon into each of the seven adjoining towns. Thus it will be seen that the air and the water of Sharon can never be polluted by the drainage of any other town.

The town is from two hundred to five hundred and thirty feet above sea level. It is sheltered on the east by the Blue Hills of Milton. The soil is gravelly and contains iron, and there is a great deal of pine wood growing in the town. All of these things, with the perfect drainage, tend to make the air of Sharon, pure and healthy: but in addition to all this, some as yet undiscovered law, causes a large amount of ozone to always exist in the air here, making it at all times soft, balmy

and extremely agreeable. Even the much and justly abused east wind is deprived of its harshness here and is not disagreeable.

In 1871 the Boston Traveller said: "In a work on local causes of consumption by Dr. Bowditch, published in 1852, he speaks of Sharon as likely to be free from lung diseases. The correctness of his opinion is now shown by the official records, from which it appears that one-fourth of all who have died in the town in the last five years were over eighty years of age, and more have died from old age than from consumption.

"In the first four months of this year, one-half the deaths in the town were from old age, and were of persons over eighty-seven. It should be added that Sharon is a growing town, with twenty per cent of its inhabitants between five and twenty years of age."

More than fifty years ago, when the Boston & Providence Railroad was being built, Major McNeil, who was then the most eminent civil engineer in this country, spent some time in Sharon. He published an article calling attention to the remarkably pure air of Sharon, but at that time the influence of climate on health had not received attention and the matter was forgotten until twenty years later, when the late A. D. Bacon, M. D., of Sharon, called the attention of other physicians to the subject.

Dr. Bacon said: "I have never seen contagious or infectious diseases be-

come epidemic here. I have had cases of small pox, diphtheria and scarlet fever in their most virulent form among my patients, under circumstances where we should suppose they would spread fearfully, but those most exposed did not take the disease." He also said: "All diseases seem to yield more readily to medical treatment here than in any other locality with which I am acquainted."

Careful tests made under the direction of a scientific man have shown more ozone in the air of Sharon than in any other place where tests have been made east of the Rocky Mountains.

Ozone exists here in such quantities as to destroy all disease germs in the atmosphere, so that no infectious or contagious disease ever has become epidemic here, and probably none ever will. The New York Medical Tribune says: "Air loaded with putrid or miasmatic exhalations is immediately purified by contact with ozonized air, and again a developement of such exhalation cannot well take place in the presence of ozone. The action of ozone on such impure air is extremely powerful. According to Schœbein, an atmosphere containing only 1-3240000 of ozone is capable of destroying all noxious matter contained in an equal volume of miasmatic air. Where or whenever there is a deficiency of this quantity of ozone, there will occur zymotic and contagious diseases, such as typhoid, scarlatina, measles, small pox, miasmatic fevers, yellow fever, etc., as well as all sorts of skin diseases."

## STATISTICS.

By the official report of 1888 it appears there were twenty-two deaths in Sharon that year, of which number eight were of persons who came here in very feeble health. This leaves the actual number of deaths of Sharon people fourteen, or less than ten in one thousand. There were in town about one hundred and twenty-five children under five years of age, and only two deaths of children under five years, and yet some thirty of the children in town were waifs, sent here to board, most of them weakly and fed from the bottle. Can any other town show such a record? Here comes in my theory that Sharon milk is more healthy than that from other towns. The records will show that the chances of a baby living to grow up are several times better in Sharon than they are in almost any other place.

## SHARON AS A HEALTH RESORT.

### HAY FEVER, CONSUMPTION AND ROSE COLD CURED.

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The pure air of Sharon has already been spoken of. It is of such a peculiar nature that invalids feel its curative effects at once and I most earnestly advise the sick and convalescent to give it a trial. I can give the addresses of people who have been cured by a residence in Sharon of what was pronounced by the best doctors to be the last stages of consumption, and can assure everyone afflicted with lung trouble that they will be sure to find relief here, if they are not fully cured.

There have been many cases of Hay Fever and Rose Cold cured here. The air of Sharon has been found beneficial for very young children, and the several charitable institutions of Boston that have charge of babies send many of their wards here to board. Though these are usually orphans who have inherited diseases from one or both of their parents, and are necessarily while here fed from a bottle, yet with Sharon air and Sharon milk, the great majority of them live and thrive.

Physicians in Boston and in towns nearer Sharon, having seen the effects of

Sharon air on these babies, are beginning to also send the weakly children of their wealthy patrons here to board.

The best physicians all over New England and New York have learned the beneficial effects of Sharon air, and send their chronic and convalescent patients to me to get them boarded, and though this part of my business is of no benefit to me, I am always happy to aid such people to get places suited to their requirements and their purses, and from my long and varied experience I am often able to make valuable suggestions on the subject.

No person who is sick should go to any far-off land in search of health and rest, until they have given Sharon a trial, since here one is not necessarily deprived of any comfort, luxury or medical attendance that can be obtained in any city in our land. Remember, the air of Sharon is entirely different from that of any other town in the vicinity. Invalids will almost always feel its beneficial effects as soon as they arrive here, and the trouble and cost of giving it a trial are merely nominal.

I can give the addresses of doctors of all schools in Boston, New York, Newport, Fall River, New Bedford, and many other places, who have had patients sick with most of the diseases that flesh is heir to, who have derived benefit from a residence here, but reference to them is hardly necessary, since the best of the

medical profession throughout the country are enthusiastic in their praises of Sharon air. But many times they find it hard to convince their patients that so simple and easy a change as a journey to Sharon will effect their cure.

Said one of Boston's best physicians not long ago, "If I could make my wealthy patients believe in Sharon as I do, I could fill every house in your little town, but they think they ought to go way off somewhere." Again, we say to all invalids, give Sharon air a trial. It won't cost you much, and may and probably will benefit you as it has hundreds of others.

Owners of fancy animals have found that the air of Sharon is as beneficial to beast as to man, and send their valuable dogs and horses here to board. In 1872, when almost every horse throughout the land was sick with epizootic, our horses in Sharon escaped, though used every day, thus showing that the ozone in the air here does kill disease germs. In one case at that time, a horse driven into town by a pedler, died of the disease, while the expressman's horse in the next stall, did not take it, though no special precautions were used to prevent it.

#### SHARON SANITARIUM.

The Sharon Sanitarium for the treatment of incipient pulmonary troubles, is the first one of the kind in New England, though there are several successful ones in Europe. It was located in Sharon on account of the well known curative effects



of Sharon air and the pure water here. The building was erected under the direct supervision of an eminent physician who had examined the best sanitariums in the world, and it contains every convenience known to medical science. The building was opened to patients in February, 1891, and in the short time it has been in operation its success has fully justified the hopes of its founders. Although a small amount of weekly board is charged, the institution is virtually a charitable one. At present only women patients are received. It is hoped there will soon be erected some small cottages adjoining the present building, so that both sexes can be received. Visiting days are Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays, from two to five o'clock. The board of directors are as follows: Nathaniel H. Stone, Treasurer, Fiske Building, State St., Reginald Gray, Alfred Bowditch, L. Vernon Briggs, Miss Olivia T. Bowditch, Miss M. Harriet Denny, Miss Alice M. Curtis, Mrs. Horatio A. Lamb; Medical Directors, Vincent Y. Bowditch, M. D., Robert W. Lovett, M. D.; Consulting Physician, Frederick I. Knight, M. D.

Applications for admission should be addressed to "Superintendent of Sharon Sanitarium, Sharon, Mass." The public are invited to inspect it.

## WATER.

The Sharon Water Company supplies the town with an abundance of pure water taken from one immense spring near the head waters of the Neponset and Taunton Rivers. The waters of this and neighboring springs have long been celebrated. Tradition tells us that the Indians and early settlers believed its use would cure dyspepsia and jaundice and dissolve gall and bladder stones, and even in our own day, intelligent people ascribe wonderful cures of different diseases to its use.

Chemical analysis however shows no especial medicinal qualities, but a remarkable absence of all deleterious qualities and as far as I am able to discover, it is simply very pure water which remains ever the same summer and winter. Another remarkable thing about it is that it retains its purity and freshness a long time if kept in glass. The spring flows about 330,000 gallons a day. From its great elevation there is no danger of its ever being contaminated. The water is raised by steam power to a stand-pipe, from which it is distributed under a sufficient head to enter the highest rooms in the village and to extinguish fires, the town being supplied with three well-equipped and well-manned hose companies and a hook and ladder company.

## TAXES AND TOWN AFFAIRS.

Those who would reside where the public affairs are carefully managed and the

public money judiciously spent, and would *dodge* those towns and cities where recklessness and extravagance prevail, will find in Sharon a desirable home.

The voters of Sharon are liberal in making appropriations for all objects supported by town taxes, but so carefully and judiciously is the money expended that the tax is kept low, on a low valuation. Politics never enter into town affairs, the best men being chosen to office without regard to political parties. This town was the first one in the State to supply free text-books to scholars. It supports a High School, though not obliged by law to do so, and the schools are all kept forty weeks in a year. The schools are partly supported by the income of an invested fund, which was given for that purpose many years ago. The town debt is small and being rapidly diminished. There is a very good Town Hall, good fire apparatus well housed, and the town's poor are well cared for on a large farm. At present, however, there are no paupers, and city people sometimes find board at the town farm. The appropriations recommended by the different boards of town officers are generally voted without a dissenting voice. Yet with all this liberality on the part of the town, the tax rate averages only ten dollars on one thousand dollars, and that, as has been said, on a low valuation.

There is a reasonable hope that even this low tax rate will soon be considerably

reduced. The valuation of the town is but little more than one million of dollars. Should a few rich people gain a residence here, as they talk of doing, the valuation of Sharon would be more than doubled, and the tax rate be reduced in the same proportion.

The following extract from the *Sharon Advocate* will serve to show what manner of a town Sharon is :

"This town has neither the manufactories nor the wealth of most of the adjoining towns, but in the moral and social standing of its people, and its benevolence and public spirit, it will compare favorably with other towns. When a law was passed permitting towns to furnish text-books free to schools, it was just like Sharon to be the first town in the State to adopt the plan. It was just like Sharon to support a High School, though not compelled by law to do so. For thirty years it has been just like Sharon to vote all the money the school committee asked for, and these votes are generally passed unanimously. In other towns and cities appropriations are usually higgled over and cut down. For thirty years it has been just like Sharon to vote without question almost every cent of money that has been asked for, for every reasonable purpose, and it has been just like Sharon to spend that money so judiciously that we take good care of our poor, have good roads and low taxes. It is just like Sharon to have a fine Town Hall at a moderate cost: a good Public

Library; to have its lake well stocked with fish; to have the telephone and telegraph, and to have railroad and mail accommodations unsurpassed by any town of its size within a like distance of Boston. More than fifty years ago, a few citizens of Sharon supplied themselves with pure water from Sharon Springs, by forcing it up to an elevation of one hundred feet, which was something they had never seen accomplished, and which wise men told them could never be done. This was just like Sharon, and unlike any other town in the vicinity; and now, when the old works are inadequate, it is just like Sharon to vote unanimously a liberal sum to supply the whole village with pure water. We might mention many other commendable things in which Sharon is unlike other towns, if our space would permit"

#### STORES AND MARKETS.

Sharon being a farming town with milk farms, market gardens and poultry yards, fresh and nice vegetables, poultry, milk and eggs are always to be had. Physicians say that milk from cows kept in Sharon is healthier than that from cows kept in less healthy towns. This will not seem unreasonable to those who know how sensitive the nursing infant is to the health of the woman who gives it sustenance. The stores and markets of Sharon supply meats, groceries and fruits, equal in quality to the best sold in Boston,

and the vast woodlands of Sharon supply an abundance of that fuel to those who would enjoy the healthy luxury of an open wood fire.

### SOCIETY

Socially, Sharon is like most well ordered New England villages, much enlivened of late, however, by the presence of families and individuals of culture who have come from other places to find pleasant, healthy homes here. The Masons, Odd Fellows and Grand Army members meet with lodges in Canton, which is only three miles away. The Sharon members of the Grand Army maintain an outpost and reading room. There are Chautauqua, Unity and several other literary clubs and societies which enliven the winter evenings for those socially inclined. Four Churches furnish religious instruction, There is a good Public Library, free to all. The Town Hall is used, for lectures, concerts and entertainments and assemblies, and a late train from Boston and Providence every night, summer and winter, gives an opportunity to attend lectures, concerts and theatres, in either city. The town always votes no license, and no rum-shops or disreputable houses are allowed.

New comers to the town are sure of a cordial welcome from those already here. It is characteristic of Sharon people to like to see their neighbors have a pleasant and enjoyable time.

## SCENERY, WALKS AND DRIVES.

The scenery, walks and drives of Sharon are unsurpassed, and I think unequalled in any other town in eastern Massachusetts. They cannot be adequately described, but must be seen to be appreciated. Usually where the scenery is wild the roads are poor, if not absolutely unsafe. It is not so here. The roads are good in all parts of the town.

In the following drives you are supposed to start from the post-office: Every one will wish to drive around Massapoag pond; from the post-office back it is six miles. Another drive you must take to see Sharon is to Moose Hill. The nearest town road is past the depot. The large new house on your right as you ascend the first hill beyond the station, is the "Ella Reed Home" built by Miss C. Bates, of Boston, as a home for destitute children. It will be occupied by Miss Bates as a residence for herself and a limited number of children. At her decease she proposes to leave it in the care of Trinity Church in Boston, as a childrens home. On the right as you go up the next hill is the Sharon Sanitarium. The next house on the right was a short time ago, occupied by two brothers, honest Scotchmen, and although own brothers they each was named "John Smith." To return from the hill by easier grades come down Moose Hill St. to Main St. From the summit of this hill

may be seen the residences of one-quarter of all the inhabitants of Massachusetts. The following interesting sketch of what may be seen from Moose Hill was prepared for me by E. G. Chamberlain, Esq., of Auburndale, Mass., who is a member of the Appalachian Club.

“Moose Hill is 530 feet above sea level. The tower affords an additional elevation of twenty feet. The tower is square, the sides facing precisely to the four cardinal points. Let us take the views in order from left to right. All elevation are reckoned from the sea level and all bearings from the *true meridian*.

Due north is West Dedham Unitarian Church, six miles distant, quite conspicuous on a hill. A little to the right is Arlington Heights, twenty miles, and under it the Theological Seminary, on Institution Hill in Newton. More to the right is Norwood village, five miles and Dedham with its court-house dome nine miles. About N. N. E. is Boston, the State House dome bearing N. 25° 27' E., eighteen miles. Just at its left is the white tower of Roxbury standpipe, and between and beyond them is Bunker Hill Monument. A trifle to the right is the large village of Hyde Park, ten miles. N. E. is the Blue Hill range. Great Blue at the left being eight miles distant and 635 feet high. A little left of it we may get a glimpse of tide water near Winthrop, while nearer we look down on the meadows of the Neponset river. Next to



Great Blue is Hancock Hill, then Hillside Street Gap, Bugbee Hill, and the peak of Chickataubut, 518 feet high, under whose left flank is Bear Hill, Hardly separable. In line with Chickataubut is Canton Corner Church, five and one-half miles. A little to the right is Canton village, four miles, and nearly over its left-hand steeple is Strawberry Hill, twenty-one miles, crowned by a standpipe. To the left of this and nearer, is the tower on Penn's Hill (in Braintree?). To the right of the right-hand Canton steeple is the triple towered Atlantic House at Nantasket, twenty-one miles. Between Strawberry Hill and the Atlantic House may be seen Massachusetts Bay, the sea horizon line being thirty and one-half miles distant. A little to the right, nine miles off, are the three tall spires of Randolph, about three degrees apart, the left-hand one bearing E. N. E. Due E. is Sharon, two miles, and over it the large village of Stoughton, six miles. Considerably to the right ten miles off, is Brockton. Just right of its tallest spire is the Standish Monument, on Captain's Hill in Duxbury, twenty-eight and one-half miles. The large pond two miles S. E. is Massapoag. Nearly over its left end is East Bridgewater, fifteen miles, and over its right end Middleboro, twenty-two miles. Due S. (S.  $0^{\circ} 20'$  W.) is Great Meadow Hill in Rehoboth, seventeen miles, crowned by a group of trees. Nearly under its right base is Mansfield, seven miles.

About S. S. W. are the two spires of Foxboro, four and one-half miles.

Half way between Great Meadow and Foxboro, appears a very small, sharp peak, Oak Hill in Attleboro, fifteen miles and nearer, at its right, the village of East Attleboro. Turning nearly to W. S. W. we see, three miles off, South Walpole, with its short white steeple. Nearly over its left is the summit of Woonsocket Hill, in Rhode Island, twenty miles. To the right of W. S. W. is the tall cupola of Dean Academy in Franklin, with steeples at its right.

Turning nearly to W. N. W. we see the low pointed ridge Asnybumskit Hill, in Paxton, 1407 feet, thirty-seven miles; and more toward N. W. the very conspicuous Wachusett Fountain in Princeton, of the same range, 2018 feet, forty-three miles, is seen over Walpole village, two and one-half miles off. Midway between Asnybumskit and Wachusett is seen Rice Hill in Rutland, forty-one miles, a little left of which is three steeples, nearly in line, and above the other: viz., Hopkinton, seventeen miles, Shrewsbury, twenty-eight miles, and Rutland, forty-two miles. Somewhat to the right of Wachusett, is the low ridge of Monoosnook Hill in Leominster, forty-one miles, seen over Medfield village, six and one-half miles off. Still to the right Grand Monadnock Mountain in Jaffrey, N. H. sixty-eight mile, 3170 feet high, a sharp peak

falling off very gradually to the right. Between Monoosnook and Monadnock, just N. W., is Sherborn Church, eleven miles. Against the right flank of Monadnock is the nob of Watatick Mountain, in Ashburnham, Mass., 1847 feet, fifty-two miles, a peak of the Wachusett range. This range we follow to the right of N. H. by Mt. Kidder in New Ipswich, Spofford and Temple Mountains in Temple, and the noticeable twin summits of Pack Monadnock, near Peterboro. The latter are about 2280 feet high and sixty-two miles distant. Between Watatick and Kidder, the near round hill, nineteen miles off, is Nobscot, in Framingham, 602 feet.

To the right of Pack Monadnock, eight miles off, is a group of hills in Dover through a gap in which we get a glimpse of Lyndeboro Pinnacle, sixty-two miles off. Turning far towards the north we see Prospect Hill, in Waltham, eighteen miles, with Little Prospect on its left flank, and further left the village of Lincoln, twenty-one miles. I have identified some prominent buildings in about fifty villages some of them requiring the telescope. Many other villages have been observed, but not yet fully identified. The spire at the right of Foxboro may be proved to be in Pawtucket, R. I. The calculated bearing of Brown University, at Providence, twenty-two and one-half miles, places it midway between the Foxboro steeples, but I have never been favored with a view of it. It is probably not visible."

The air on the hill is very invigorating, and persons with weak lungs enjoy it much. Invalids, by carrying a lunch and spending some hours on the hill, are often benefited. I regret that there is no boarding place there. Perhaps sometime there will be a sanitarium or hotel on the hill. It would be well patronized.

On our return, on Moose Hill Street, you will pass the barn of Henry L. de Bussigny, where are kept in summer some of the finest saddle horses in the country.

His stable is worthy of a visit from all lovers of fine-bred horses.

The poultry house that you pass on returning is over eight hundred feet long, and has a wing, not in sight of the road, four hundred and eighty feet long. It was intended for ten thousand fowl. It is now used as a duck ranch. More than five thousand ducks were hatched there in 1891.

For a short drive take Main St. to Foxboro, turn the first left through "Gun-house Lane" then next left home. In "Gun-house Lane" formerly stood the gun-house, in which was stored the cannon to protect the inhabitants from their enemies. Elm Lawn, near the corner of the lane, was formerly the Randall homestead, and here died, not many years ago, "Boston Randall," a very aged negro, and probably the last slave owned in Massachusetts. He was brought from Africa, and kept as a body servant until he fi-

nally became a family pet. He refused his freedom, and was kindly cared for by the family while he lived. He was buried, as was his master's family, in the Chestnut Tree Cemetery.

Another short drive is past the Sanitarium to the town farm.

For a very romantic drive, take Main St. and Walpole St. to Mrs. Benjamin Roades' house, turn sharp to the left and follow County St. until it comes to Main St., near Paradise cranberry meadow. County St. is full of sharp pitches and not much travelled, but it is decidedly wild, and has a history. It is one of the oldest roads in Massachusetts, having been called "the path to Bristol." It was over this road that Madame Knight rode on the first night of her famous journey to New York, and the "Wayman's Ordinary" where she spent the first night, stood near where the cranberry storehouse now stands. Here Ebenezer Billings is supposed to have built his tavern about 1658, many years before there was a white person in what is now Canton.

For a variety of ferns drive through the Pigeon Swamp road. Maiden hair ferns grow here. You will have a romantic drive to go past Leonard's mill, turning sharp to the left at the cemetery and taking the first right and then the next right. Near the house of W. H. Agry, on this road, you get a splendid view, and an assortment of ferns.

Drive to Wolomolpoag pond, and turn to the left and the next left home. If you care for places of historic interest, when on this drive take the right at Mrs. T. E. Clark's and go to Clapp's sawmill. Here was the foundry where, under Gen. Gridley, was cast the first cannon ever made in the country.

Not far from Mrs. Clark's, King Philip and his warriors camped the night they burned Medfield, in 1676. They passed the "Wayman's Ordinary" just at dusk, but spared it because one of the chiefs said, "Billings is Indians' friend."

It is six miles to Foxboro, and six to South Walpole. On the South Walpole road, Mr. Lyman Plympton has a cultivated cranberry bog and a cultivated white pine grove, both, equal, if not superior to any others in the State. To Walpole it is five miles, six to Norwood and three to Canton. At Canton, go and see the large, solid stone viaduct, by which the railroad crosses the highway and Neponset river. It used to be considered one of the wonders of the age. To Dedham it is ten miles. Here on East Street is the Old Fairbanks house, which has been occupied by the same family for two hundred and forty years. For twenty-five cents Miss Fairbanks will show you many curious relics and heirlooms of the family.

To Stoughton it is six miles, and to North Easton it is seven. At the latter the Unitarian church, the other public buildings, and the magnificent grounds of

F. L. Ames, which are open to the public are worthy of a visit. To Easton Furnace, seven miles, is a pleasant drive, and a little off the road, in East Mansfield are Austin's poultry grounds. Here at times may be seen as many as five thousand geese fattening for the market, as well as immense quantities of hens, ducks and turkeys. Mr. Austin sometimes feeds sixty bushels of grain a day to his fowl. To East Foxboro is six miles. Much of the way this road runs beside the railroad track.

Lovers of wild flowers and ferns will find a great variety here. Those who delight to see farming operations will be interested in the market gardens and greenhouses on Sharon plain, and the cranberry meadows farther west. The woods and ponds of Sharon furnish game for the hunter, and the numerous ponds and brooks furnish fish for the angler, and the ponds also furnish ample opportunities for boating and bathing. Besides numerous mill-ponds in Sharon, there are two beautiful sheets of water, called Wolomolpoag and Massapoag. Though only a mile apart they are at the head of different rivers: one flows to the west and the other to the east. Massapoag contains four hundred and sixty acres of water and is three hundred feet above sea level. There is a drive completely around it. Formerly the water flowed from this pond into both the Taunton and the Neponset rivers. The early settlers used to

liken it to a leaky barrel, from which the water flowed in all directions.

Being at the summit of both rivers, it was the boundary between the lands of the Narraganset and the Massachusetts Indians, while Wolomolpoag flowed into the Taunton and belonged exclusively to King Philip's tribe. The name Wolomolpoag is Indian and signifies pleasant water or sweet water, and it was most truthfully named, being a beautiful sheet of water.

#### FARMS AND LAND FOR SALE.

There are several farms within from ten to thirty minutes drive of the two depots in Sharon, that can be bought very low and some of them on easy terms. A man who is willing to work can make a good living on one of these farms and is sure to get a rise on his land. There is not and never has been, a boom in Sharon real estate, neither has it ever been depressed, but there has been a considerable growth in the village since the introduction of water in 1885 and a marked rise in the value of eligible house-lots, and this rise and growth seems likely to continue. Good house-lots within five to ten minutes walk of churches, railroad, station, stores and post-office, sell for from \$200 to \$1000 an acre, or from one-half to two cents a foot, according to location and condition of land. Most people buy lots of one-quarter or better



still, of one-half an acre; this gives ample room for vegetable garden and poultry yard. In larger quantities and in some localities, a considerable reduction is made from these prices. Near the railroad are some large tracts of unimproved lands and wood lands that can be bought cheap. Some of these are well worth the attention of capitalists and builders as they can be cut up at a large profit. Poultry and milk farming and market gardening is unusually profitable in Sharon as our numerous cottagers furnish a market at the highest retail prices and the manufacturing cities and towns in the vicinity take all the surplus at remunerative prices. I have farms for sale of all sizes up to 300 acres and all prices up to \$15,000. I have two or three extra nice horse and stock farms to sell to monied men.

#### HOUSES FOR SALE AND TO LET.

There are houses for sale in and near the village with from 10,000 feet to 14 acres of land and at prices from \$700 to \$1300. Some of these have all modern conveniences and nearly all of them are supplied with Sharon spring water. There are usually furnished houses to let some with ample grounds and stables, and a few unfurnished ones but it is only fair to say that the supply of places to let is usually far short of the demand, and rents in Sharon are not so low as in some other localities. It is well there-

fore if you wish to hire a house to inquire early in the season. This book is not intended as a catalogue of the property that is for sale or to let in Sharon and because you don't see advertised in it such a place as you wish, it doesn't follow that there is no such place here.

Before you locate anywhere, write me and carefully describe what you wish, or better still, come and see me and let me show you the town. You will find it is all and more than this book claims it is, and perhaps you will find here just what you wish. You will find my carriage at Sharon station on the arrival of the 11.00 A. M. and 2.00 P. M. trains from Boston every pleasant day except Saturdays and Sundays. If you wish to come by any other train, please notify me by telegraph, telephone or letter. You can at all times telephone directly to my house.

#### BUSINESS CHANCES.

There are frequent inquiries from people who would like to reside in Sharon, and wish some remunerative business. I shall have a new centrally located store to let this spring. There are calls for men skilled in the building trades and someone to sell building material. Boarding house and hotel keepers can always find a good opening here, as the call for accomodations always far excels the supply. I expect this spring to have one or two good hotels to sell and possibly some

to let. I can also give an experienced person with some capital assistance in building a first class new hotel.

There is also a call for a first class country tavern where man and beast can find accomodation for a meal or longer. Such a house would be sure of a large patronage at all times.

There is an urgent call for one or more sanitariums. The success of the one now open has caused a great many invalids to wish to come to Sharon for treatment. ibut the one now here is always full and besides it only receives people in moderate circumstances and treats only one class of diseases. There are an almost unlimited number of people who are out of health and are able and willing to pay large prices, if they could find accomodations in a well conducted sanitarium here. There is a fine opening for a capitalist or practical builder to erect houses here, for sale or to let. It really seems as if a shrewd man with some means would find a splendid opening in this business.

#### HOTELS AND BOARDING HOUSES.

There are two hotels in Sharon, on the shores of Massapoag. The Massapoag Lake House is on the south side of the pond, is beautifully situated and has almost everything desirable to make summer life pleasant. The house has been open twenty years, during which time it has been several times enlarged. The

Lake View House on the west shore of the pond is a nearly new house having been erected in 1890. It is within easy walking distance, through a pine grove, from Sharon Heights station. It commands a nice view of the lake and in the two seasons it has been open it has earned a fine reputation as a well kept family hotel. The Sharon House is a boarding house within easy walking distance of Sharon Station. It accommodates about forty which is sometimes increased by out lodgers to seventy-five.

The Winship House on Pond St., has large rooms and modern conveniences. It can accommodate about twelve which is much increased by persons rooming out. There are also a number of houses where from two to a dozen boarders are taken at prices varying from five to ten or twelve dollars a week, but the supply is far short of the demand, and it is well to apply early for board.

I intend to keep thoroughly posted in regard to those who have vacant rooms, their location, prices, etc., and am always happy to give information and make suggestions to those seeking board, and am often enabled to save them time, trouble and money. If those seeking board will write, enclosing a stamp, I will cheerfully furnish them any desired information. Please state what you require, how many rooms, whether there are children, and what prices you expect to pay. "Reas-

onable prices." if from a stranger. conveys no information to me. since thirty dollars a week from some of my patrons would be reasonable, and others find it hard to pay five dollars. Generally good board cannot be obtained for less than seven dollars a week. This branch of my business is of no pecuniary profit to me, but it is my desire and for my interest to see people located in Sharon to their own satisfaction. Good carriages with careful drivers who know the boarding places, will be furnished on application to me at not to exceed one dollar an hour. Come by the 11.00 A. M. or 2.00 P. M. train: if coming on any other train, give previous notice by mail, telegraph or telephone, and my carriage will be at the station. No charge for information or suggestions, but those who find it necessary to employ a carriage will confer favor on me and in some measure recompense me for my trouble, by patronizing my teams.



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# ADVERTISEMENTS.

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W. B. WICKES,  
General Business Agent

(ESTABLISHED 1870.)

Sharon, Mass.

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**REAL ESTATE**

Sold, Leased and Cared for,

FARMS, HOUSES, WOODLANDS,  
BUSINESS CHANCES AND  
UNIMPROVED PROPERTY

FOR SALE.

HOUSES TO LET

BOTH FURNISHED AND UNFURNISHED.

Boarding Places Supplied.

CONNECTED BY TELEPHONE.



## Sharon Village.

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**T**O let furnished, the Turner Estate a 2-story, eight room house, well furnished, ample ground for a garden and some fruit. It has southern exposure and is in the heart of the village; will be let by the year or for the summer.

---

**F**OR sale, the A. G. Hixon Estate. About 5-8 of an acre of land, on Main St. in the centre of the village. There is a large brick house and large barn with plenty of apples. This place will be in demand soon for business purposes and will rapidly increase in value.

---

**F**OR sale, on Main St. an eight room, two-story house and 1-3 of an acre of land. Price, \$3500.

---

**T**O let, on Main St., close to the churches and stores, a nicely furnished 8-room house, furnace heat. Will be let for the summer or a year. Possession given April 1.

---

**F**OR sale, on Main St. 1-2 of a mile from station, a 16-room house, all modern conveniences and in perfect repair. There are 10 acres of land and a large barn; all kinds of fruit. Price \$10,000, and it is cheap enough.

---

**F**OR sale, on Main St., 80 rods from Post Office, a modern house, 10 rooms, laundry, bath room, conservatory, and all modern conveniences, including steam heat and gas. There is 45,000 feet of land well stocked with all kinds of fruit, has fine shade. There is a stable with carriage room, box stalls, pony stall, and room for man, cow stalls in basement of stable; there is also a large poultry house. More land can be had if desired. This is an elegant place; come and see it.

---

**D**IRECTLY opposite, above, is a 13-room, nearly new house, has furnace heat; 45,000 feet of land on which is a fine grove. Will be sold on easy terms or let to a good tenant.

**T**WO let, on the highest land in the village, a nearly new, 9-room house, has gas, furnace, hot and cold water, bath and electric bells. This is an elegant place; there is a fine stable, and it will be let for a year or longer.

---

**O**N Billings St., For sale, a very desirable estate consisting of 11-room house, stable, 3 poultry houses and 1-acre of land with all kinds of fruit; the house has all modern conveniences and is very sunny. It is central and the land is likely to rise in value. Price \$5,000 on easy terms, but it is now rented and must be sold subject to lease.

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**F**OR sale or to let, on Pond St., 1-2 of a very nice double house and 1-3 of an acre of land well stocked with small fruits. The house is 2-story, a neat place, has furnace heat and is a desirable place for a small family.

---

**O**N Pond St., a house and about 1 acre of land, house has 11 rooms, some of them large and has modern conveniences. It is a fine place for a large family and is only eight minutes walk from the station.

---

**O**N Pond St. For sale 1-2 a double cottage house and 1-4 of an acre of land. This would make a nice home for one or two ladies or an aged couple. Price \$750 on easy terms.

---

**F**OR sale. Only eight minutes walk from the station, a nearly new 9-room house and 1-2 acre of land. This is a nice place and will be sold at a bargain with or without furniture.

---

**F**OR sale. A good nearly new 2-story house barn and hen-house and nearly 2-acres of land; there are lots of nice apples and it is quite a little farm only five minutes walk from Post Office. Price \$3,200.

**I** EXPECT to sell this spring an extra nice 23-acre farm with a good house and barn. House has modern improvements and the land is stocked with fruits and berries and has a splendid pine grove; the rear of the farm borders on a pond. It is 3-4 of a mile from the station, and 1-2 of a mile from Public Square.

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**F**OR sale. A large modern 16-room house and very fine stable. house has all modern conveniences including gas and commands a splendid view. It is an elegant place, come and see it.

---

**T**HESE village places are all within from one to eight minutes walk of the Post Office and Public Library and are all supplied with the famous Sharon Spring Water.

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**F**OR sale. On the line of the water-pipes and only five minutes walk from station, 4-acres of building land, sets high, commanding a fine view and has perfect drainage. Price \$2,500

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**N**EAR the above I have some fine building lots to sell.

---

**F**OR sale. Three minutes walk from station, 9 acres of vacant land very desirable for house lots. Has a fine view, southern exposure and perfect drainage.

---

**N**EAR the above I have 2 1-2 acres of wood land that I will sell at a bargain.

---

**F**OR sale. Other lots of vacant land and wood lands near the station, some of them on the main roads.

---

**F**OR sale. About eight minutes walk from the station and near churches, schools, post-office and stores, a nearly new house and 1-2 of an acre of land. This house commands as fine a view as there is in Sharon village, overlooking parts of Stoughton, Canton, Norwood, Dedham, Hyde Park, Milton and Boston. Of course the drainage is perfect as it sets very high. Come and look at it.

**I**F you want to build a house to suite yourself, I can sell you a fine lot on Billings St. right in the heart of the village. Buy it and build a house and if you don't wish to live in it I can rent it for you for a large per cent on the cost. Right here let me say that rents are very high in Sharon as there are not near enough houses to supply the demand. It is useless to come here expecting to hire a desirable place at a low rent. Probably in the next three months I shall have many calls for tenements that I can't supply.

---

**F**OR sale, in the village, a new house, very nice, and 1-acre of land, \$3,600. More land can be had if desired.

---

**F**OR sale, on the edge of the village a good 7-room house and 1-2 of an acre of land. There are splendid great trees on the rear of the lot, \$2,250.

---

**F**OR sale. About 3-4 of a mile from the station, a nice nearly new house, very pleasant.

---

**F**OR sale, on Tolman St. a good house-lot, 75x110 \$165.

---

**H**OUSE lots for sale on Tolman, Cottage and Woodland Sts., at from 2 to 2 1-2c a foot, some of them have pine groves on them.

W. B. WICKES, Sharon.

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## Sharon Heights.

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**A**T and near the Heights Station I have several farms that I can sell at a bargain and they are almost sure to rise in value soon.

---

**O**NE of 30-acres, new cottage house, old barn, fruit and wood, \$3,000.

---

**O**NE of 30-acres, 7-room cottage, barn and 5 hen houses; 500 cords of wood, \$2,200.

---

**O**NE of 40-acres, house, barn, wood, cranberry meadow, \$2,250; that is a bargain.

**O**NE of 1 acre with large house, big enough for boarders, barn etc., \$1,700; only \$300 down.

---

**A**NOTHER with 1-2 of an acre, \$1,000 only \$200 down.

---

**A** 6-acre farm, no buildings, cheap.

---

**H**OUSE lots and vacant lands so cheap they must rise in value soon.

---

**A** FINE pine grove of 4-acres with 6-acres of cleared for \$2,000.

---

**I** CAN sell a large tract of splendid building land cheap. This is a rare chance for a party with money and enterprise to make a lot of money.

---

**F**OR sale, near Sharon Heights Station, a good two-story house and 1-2 of an acre of land, \$1,000 on easy terms.

---

**F**OR sale. A gentleman's farm, a nearly new house with all modern conveniences, a large stable and 14-acres of land. There are fine old shade trees, good fruits, house sets high, on the borders of a lake, and take it all in all, it is one of the finest places in the beautiful town of Sharon. Price, \$8,000 and the land alone ought to bring that.

---

## Large Farms.

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**A** 175-acre farm with two houses and three barns will be sold at a bargain, with or without stock and tools. This farm is a nice one for a practical or an amateur farmer, as the land is in a high state of cultivation, the buildings are finely situated on very high ground and the place is worth the attention of any one seeking health, wealth or pleasure.

---

**N**EAR the above and equally well situated is a 150-acre farm, two houses, two barns, and lots of fruit. Farm is very productive and well adapted to grass or any crop.

**O**N Mountain St. in Sharon I can sell you a 300-acre farm, owner having worked on it about eighty years wishes to let some younger man have a chance. Will be sold on easy terms.

---

**I**N Dedham I have a very nice farm with an old fashion two-story house and large barn. Will sell cheap to close up an estate.

---

**I**N Canton I have a splendid stock farm, a fair barn and a no account house. This property is very desirable to cut up.

---

## Hotels and Boarding Houses.

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**I** HAVE two or three very desirable hotels to sell, and can offer great bargains in that line to the right parties. One of them has been full every summer since it was built. It will be sold with or without the furnishings, at a price that will make it a rare bargain. Any practical hotel man who is seeking a location will do well to confer with me at once. Often I have hotels offered me in other places and can most always give would be purchasers great bargains.

---

**O**N the borders of the Massapoag I have for sale a 200-acre farm, cottage house, old farm barn. This farm has been in one family more than 150 years; it belongs now to a widow who has no boys and is ready to sell it at a sacrifice.

---

**N**EAR Massapoag is a 300-acre farm. It is the old, old story, boys all gone away and the farm which has been in the family for generations is for sale. Will sell part or all of it.

---

**I**CE, ice. I have a splendid ice privilege to sell.

---

**T**O let. A large new building, suitable for a store, market or other business. Also several chambers suitable for offices, millinery or dressmaking. The whole building might be let for manufacturing purposes.

**F**OR sale, near the Massapoag House, a 23-acre farm, old house in fine repair, \$1,700, \$300 down.

---

**F**OR sale. Near the above a 16-acre farm, very old house, fair barn for, \$1,200.

---

**F**OR sale. About 1 1-2 miles from station, on a main road, 1-2 of a mile from Post Office, a 3-acre farm, all kinds of fruit, house and barn in perfect repair. Must be sold to settle an estate. Price \$1,700; one-half down.

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**F**OR sale. On Main St. Sharon, 1 1-4 miles from station, a 30-acre farm, good vegetable land and nice place for poultry. Cottage house, 7 rooms, good little barn, lots of pine and hard wood, \$2,200.

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**A**T North Sharon I have for sale a farm that has been run very successfully as a milk farm. It is not over 1 1-2 miles to station over a good road, is near school and is in some respects as good a farm as there is in Sharon.

---

**I**F you want a large cottage house with lots of sheds and a barn and plenty of land, near school and on main road. I have such a place for \$3,500.

---

**I**F you want a quiet place, away from the bustle and turmoil of life and yet not far from a good yearly school, I have it and can sell it right. It is 1-2 of a mile from a country road but it is a romantic place.

---

## **Lands for Builders and Speculators.**

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**D**IRECTLY on the railroad I have some large tracts of land that can be divided up at a great profit. I should be pleased to confer with parties having money and brains enough to handle some of them. I have also building lands in Canton and other towns. Write to me or come and see me.

W. B. WICKES.

**F**OR sale. At Ponkipog village in Canton, a very nice two-story house in perfect repair and fine stable. This is a splendid place in an aristocratic village.

---

**F**OR sale near Canton Junction Station a nice house and large garden and grove.

---

**F**OR sale, in East Foxboro, an extra nice 14-room house and large barn; 20-acres of land including 8-acres of wood land. The house sets high, has a wide piazza, is near station and is admirably adapted for boarders. There is plenty of small fruit. It is in the heart of the village, near Post Office, store, church and school. Price \$5,000 on very easy terms. Inquire of Oliver H. Green, Equitable Building, Boston, or W. B. Wickes, Sharon.

---

**F**OR sale, on Moose Hill, Sharon, 10-acres of valuable building land on the corner of Moose Hill and Depot Sts. It is high and commands a splendid view. Price \$1,200.

---

**F**OR sale, in Sharon, 1 mile from the Public Square, two farms, one of them has a large, modern house, large stable, all kinds of fruit, plenty of wood including a fine pine grove.

---

**O**PPPOSITE the above is another farm belonging to the same party. There is a new two-story house, barn and plenty of land; there is a fine trout brook on this place. Here, it is the same old story, boys gone away and the head of the house finds himself with two farms on his hands and lots of out land and must sacrifice something and get rid of them.

---

**F**OR sale, in Sharon, on a main street, a nice little 4 acre place, all kinds of fruit, 6-room house. Barn buildings need slight repairs. It is in a good neighborhood and near school. Price \$1,000, \$500 cash.



# COAL AND WOOD

---

## COAL OF ALL SIZES.

## HARD & SOFT WOOD & KINDLING

Wood cut and split to any size desired.  
Fire-place wood a specialty. All orders  
filled promptly.

**J. O'LEARY,**

Box 10.

Sharon, Mass.

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# ICE

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THE PUREST AND BEST OF

## MASSAPOAG ICE

Delivered in any quantity desired at  
wholesale or retail. Careful and experienced  
drivers employed to supply families.

Send orders by mail or leave them at  
my residence, Chestnut St., Sharon.

**T. O'LEARY.**

POND STREET

# Livery Stable

---

Double and Single Carriages with or without drivers furnished at short notice. Also

HACKS,

BARGES,

WAGONETTES and

PARTY WAGONS.

The best of care taken of boarding horses. Winter board for horses.

Depot carriages at trains.

Carriages for large parties or to the midnight trains may be ordered by mail, telegraph or telephone.

My stable is near the residence of W. B. Wickes, and carriages may be ordered by telephone to him.

**G. A. ROLLINS,**

SHARON, MASS.

**C. E. HOWARD, SO. SHARON.**

P. O. ADDRESS, EAST FOXBORO.

**FIRE WOOD PREPARED**

For stove or fireplace. Delivered promptly  
in any quantity desired.

---

**LONG BROTHERS,**

Sharon. keep in stock EVERY ARTICLE  
USUALLY KEPT IN A COUNTRY  
STORE. Permanent Residents, Cottagers  
and Summer Residents supplied with  
goods equal in quality to any in Boston.  
A member of the firm will call for orders  
and deliver goods promptly.

---

**ATLA SPRING WATER,**

From Atla Springs, Sharon.

*Boston Office, . 93 Arch St.*

---

**H. F. LEONARD, Sharon.**

**COAL.**

*FRED M. CROOKER.*

**HAIR DRESSER.**

Over Long's Store, Chestnut St., Sharon.

Particular attention given to dressing and cutting Ladies' and Children's hair.

# Pure Sharon Milk

From my own herd of choice Holstein  
cows.

Send orders by mail or leave them with  
W. B. WICKES.

**C. A. HIXSON, - Sharon.**

## WINSHIP HOUSE

POND STREET. - - SHARON.

Large rooms, modern conveniences,  
good table. Open all the year.

Address, Box 159. - SHARON, MASS.

# D. W. Pettee

—DEALER IN—

PROVISIONS, GROCERIES, DRY GOODS, CLOTHING, BOOTS, SHOES and RUBBERS, BUILDING MATERIALS, and all the varieties of a general store. Orders solicited, and goods delivered promptly.

SHARON, - - - - - MASS.

---

## MARKET.

### W. W. BROOKS,

Makes a specialty of supplying Summer Residents, Cottagers, and all others with

MEATS, POULTRY,

GAME, VEGETABLES,

CANNED GOODS,

### BUTTER,

and all goods usually kept in a well-stocked market.

W. W. BROOKS, - Sharon.

Orders by telephone may be left with  
W. B. WICKES.

# WHAT DO YOU WANT?

- Do you want a farm to get a living on?
- Do you want a farm for a plaything?
- Do you want a cranberry meadow?
- Do you want a poultry yard?
- Do you want a wood lot?
- Do you want a lot of vacant land?
- Do you want a house for a home?
- Do you want a house to let, as an investment?
- Do you want to hire a house?
- Do you want to sell a house or let one?
- Do you want to sell a farm or some land?
- Do you want a boarding place?
- Do you want to take boarders?
- Do you want to sell any kind of business?
- Do you want to go into any kind of business or invest any money?
- In short, do you wish to buy, sell or hire anything in Sharon or vicinity, or want to get a home in Sharon?

Apply to W. B. WICKES, Sharon.  
Telephone Connection.

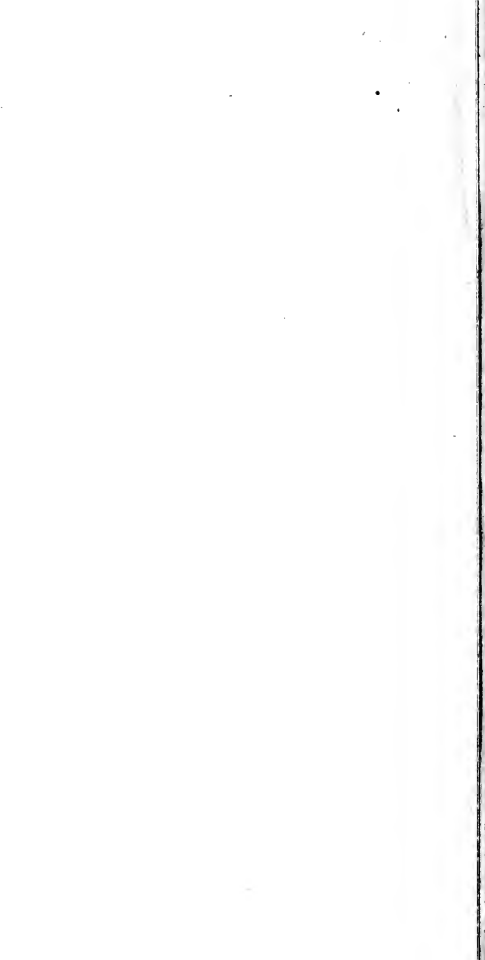
# WHAT DO YOU WANT?













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